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~~analyzing the claim text of said at least one claim to generate a claim breadth metric corresponding individually to said at least one claim;~~

~~associating said claim breadth metric with said claim text and storing said associated metric in a computer-readable dataset.~~

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8. (amended) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

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retrieving a corpus of patent information from a database;

analyzing said patent information to generate a category metric corresponding to user-prescribed categories; and

associating said category metric with said patent information and storing said associated metric in a computer-readable dataset.

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SUB C27  
11. (new) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

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retrieving text of claims from a computer-implemented data store, wherein the text of claims are from a plurality of patent documents;

analyzing the text of the claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the claims, wherein a claim breadth metric is indicative of claim breadth of a claim,

wherein the claim breadth metrics are used to analyze the claims.

12. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes counting the number of words in each of the claims and generating a numeric claim breadth metric for each claim therefrom.

13. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes identifying within a claim's text a preamble portion and a body portion, counting the number of words in said preamble and body portions and applying separate weights to said counts to generate said claim breadth metric for a claim.

14. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes parsing said text to identify parts of speech, using said identified parts of speech to identify clauses within a claim, comparing said clauses with the text of other claims to generate scores indicative of which clauses within said claim text have a lower probability of being found in other claims within said patent documents.

15. (new) The method of claim 11 further comprising displaying said patent documents in a sorted order based on said claim breadth metrics.

16. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the sorted patent documents are used in a patent infringement study.

17. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the sorted patent documents are used to determine patent documents whose maintenance fees are not to be paid.

18. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein said step of analyzing the claims' text includes linguistically processing said text to identify at least one clause within said claim text that has a lower probability than other of said clauses within said claim text of being found in other claims within said patent documents.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 further comprising displaying said claims' text such that said one clause is visually presented differently than the other of said clauses.

A4 20. (new) The method of claim 11 further comprising:  
generating descriptive statistics based upon the generated claim breadth metrics, wherein the generated descriptive statistics are indicative of quality of claims analyzed.

21. (new) The method of 20 wherein generated descriptive statistics are generated for groupings of claims.

22. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the claim groupings are formed based upon patent ownership, wherein the generated descriptive statistics are statistics selected from the group consisting of average, average of the averages, standard deviation, maximum, minimum, and combinations thereof.

23. (new) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

- retrieving patent information from a database, wherein the patent information is from a plurality of patent documents;
- analyzing said patent information to generate category metrics; and
- associating said category metrics with said patent documents and storing said associated metrics in a computer-readable dataset.

A4 24. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said patent information includes patent classification information and wherein said analyzing step is performed by defining a plurality of categories and mapping classification information onto said categories.

25. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said patent information includes claim text information to be analyzed and wherein said analyzing step includes:

- defining an eigenspace representing a training population of training claims each training claim having associated training text;
- representing at least a portion of said training claims in said eigenspace and associating a predefined category with each training claim in said eigenspace; and
- projecting the claim text information to be analyzed into said eigenspace and associating with said projected claim text the predefined category of the training claim to which it is closest within the eigenspace.

26. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein said patent information includes using both patent classification information and linguistic analysis results to determine said category metrics to be associated with the patent documents.

27. (new) The method of claim 26 wherein the category metrics are indicative of technical areas of the patent documents.

28. (new) The method of claim 23 further comprising:  
retrieving text of claims from the database, wherein the text of claims are from the plurality of patent documents;

analyzing the text of the claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the claims, wherein a claim breadth metric is indicative of claim breadth of a claim,  
wherein the claim breadth metrics are used to analyze the claims.

29. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein values of the category metrics are predetermined.

30. (new) The method of claim 23 wherein values of the category metrics are dynamically determined.

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31. (new) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis apparatus comprising:

a database of patent documents containing text of claims;

a claim breadth analysis module that analyzes the text of the claims in order to generate claim breadth metrics for the claims, wherein a claim breadth metric is indicative of claim breadth of a claim, wherein the claim breadth metrics are provided over an internet network for use in analyzing scope of the claims;

a cluster generator that analyzes patent information to generate category metrics for the patent documents, wherein clusters of patent documents are determined based upon the generated category metrics, wherein the clusters of patent documents are provided over an internet network for use in analyzing the patent documents.

32. (new) A computer-implemented patent portfolio analysis method comprising:

retrieving a corpus of patent information from a database, said information including the claim text of a plurality of claims;

analyzing the claim text of said plurality of claims to generate and associate an individual claim breadth metric with each of said plurality of claims.